

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF VENTURA
VENTURA DIVISION**

TENTATIVE RULINGS

EVENT DATE: 08/19/2020 EVENT TIME: 08:20:00 AM DEPT.: 20
JUDICIAL OFFICER: Matthew P. Guasco

CASE NUM: 56-2019-00527355-CU-PA-VTA
CASE TITLE: RUIZ VS. BUSTOS

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: PI/PD/WD - Auto

EVENT TYPE: Motion to Compel - Responses to Demand Production
CAUSAL DOCUMENT/DATE FILED: Motion - Other, 07/08/2020

Notice Regarding Courtroom 20 Law & Motion Procedures: The law and motion calendar in Courtroom 20 before Judge Matthew P. Guasco starts promptly at 8:30 a.m. Ex parte applications will be heard at the same time as matters on the law and motion calendar. Parties appearing by Court Call must check in with the Judicial Assistant by 8:20 a.m. No notice of intent to appear is required. Parties wishing to submit on the tentative decision must so notify the Court by e-mail at Courtroom20@ventura.courts.ca.gov or by fax to Judge Guasco's secretary, Lori Jacques at (805) 477-5892. **Do not call in lieu of sending an e-mail or fax.** If a party submits on the tentative decision without appearing, but another party appears, the hearing will be conducted in the absence of the non-appearing party. Effective February 13, 2018, all cases assigned to Courtroom 20 are assigned for all purposes (including trial) to Judge Guasco. **COVID-19 NOTICE:** Pursuant to the administrative orders of the Presiding Judge and the Civil Reopening Plan, effective June 10, 2020, and until further notice, all attorneys and self-represented parties in law and motion hearings must appear telephonically via Court Call; there shall be no personal appearances in the courtroom without the prior express approval of Judge Guasco. You may contact Court Call as follows: www.courtcall.com or call 888-882-6878.

The following is the Court's tentative decision concerning the motion of defendant, Angela Bustos ("Bustos"), to compel the responses of plaintiff, Lidia Ruiz ("Ruiz"), to Form Interrogatories, Set One, and Request for Production of Documents, Set One, and related monetary sanctions requests:

The Court GRANTS both motions. As of the time this tentative decision is drafted, it is the Court's understanding that Ruiz has filed to serve verified responses to both sets of discovery. Accordingly, the Court enters its ORDER compelling Ruiz to serve verified, code-compliant responses without objection to Form Interrogatories, Set One, and Request for Production of Documents, Set One, by no later than **September 24, 2020**.

The Court GRANTS the request of Bustos for the imposition of monetary sanctions against Ruiz and her counsel of record, Law Offices of Paul Kingston, jointly and severally, in the sum of \$450 per motion, for a total of \$900, payable by no later than **September 24, 2020**. The Court finds this sum is reasonable given the experience and skill of counsel, the nature and complexity of the motions (particularly, the fact that both motions are unopposed), and the results obtained. The Court cannot identify either a substantial justification or any other circumstances which would make the mandatory award of monetary sanctions unjust.

Counsel for Bustos shall serve and file a notice of ruling and proposed order consistent with the above and in conformity with the Code of Civil Procedure and the California Rules of Court. A copy of this tentative decision (if adopted by the Court as its final decision) may be attached to and incorporated in the proposed order in lieu of quoting same verbatim in the body of the document.